

REMARKS

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over W0 99/14874 to Rebhan et al. (“Rebhan”)

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rebhan.

A. Claim 1

Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over the reference. For example, claim 1 states that a signal analyzing part extracts a control signal from a received signal and that the control signal indicates whether or not the received signal is interleaved along a time axis. On the other hand, Rebhan does not disclose or suggest this feature.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner seems to maintain that the “null symbol” 311 shown in Fig. 3 corresponds to the claimed control signal, but Applicants respectfully disagree. As described on page 20 of Rebhan, the receiver 290 uses the null symbol 311 for course synchronization, and traditionally, the null symbol 311 was completely empty. (Page 20, lines 12-13). However, currently, the null symbol 311 includes transmitter identification information (“TII”) that identifies the transmitter that transmits the signal. Accordingly, the null symbol 311 does not indicate whether or not the received signal is interleaved, and thus, the symbol 311 does not disclose or suggest the claimed control signal.

In light of the discussion above, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Rebhan.

B. Claim 2

Since claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, the rejection of the claim is moot.

C. Claims 3-6

Since claims 3-6 depend upon claim 1, Applicants submit that they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

D. Claim 7

Since claim 7 contains features that are analogous to the features recited in claim 1, Applicants submit that it is patentable for reasons that are similar to the reasons presented above in conjunction with claim 1.

E. Claim 8

Since claim 8 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, the rejection of the claim is moot.

F. Claims 9-12

Since claims 9-12 depend upon claim 7, Applicants submit that they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

II. Newly added claims

Applicants have added new claims 13-21 to provide more varied protection for the invention. Since Rebhan does not suggest varying a duration that the control circuit interrupts a reception of a first broadcast signal based on a characteristic of the first broadcast signal, Applicants submit that claim 13 is patentable. Also, since claims 14-21 depend upon claim 13, Applicants submit that they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

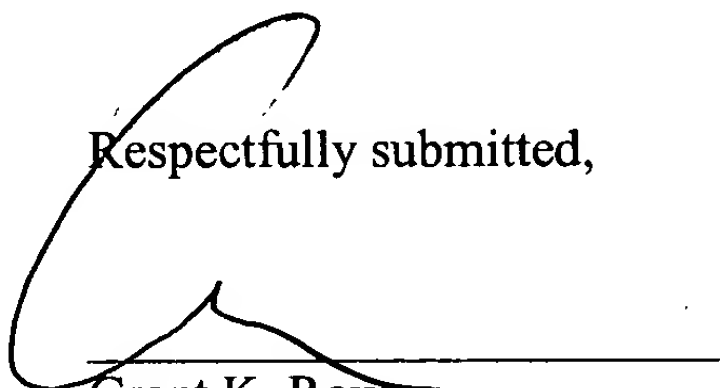
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/822,935

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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